# IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Clerk of the Court Civil Division

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

a municipal corporation 441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001,

Plaintiff,

 $V_{*}$ 

UNLIMITED TECHNOLOGIES AND SOLUTIONS CORPORATION D/B/A UTS

1801 Columbia Road, NW, Suite 103 Washington, DC 20009,

and

MARDOQUEO M. SANCHEZ 1522 Crest Road

Silver Spring, MD 20902,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2016 CA 002205 B

## COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND OTHER RELIEF

Plaintiff District of Columbia ("District"), by the Office of the Attorney General, Office of Consumer Protection, brings this action pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909 for injunctive relief, restitution, damages, costs, and civil penalties against Defendants Unlimited Technologies and Solutions Corporation, doing business as UTS (hereafter referred to as "UTS") and Mardoqueo M. Sanchez (hereafter referred to as "Sanchez") for violations of the District's Consumer Protection Procedures Act ("CPPA"), D.C. Code §§ 28-3901, et seq. The District states as follows:

1. The District institutes this proceeding to enjoin UTS and Sanchez from engaging in unlawful practices in connection with their unauthorized practice of law and offer and sale of

immigration services and to obtain relief for consumers victimized by the Defendants' unlawful trade practices.

### Jurisdiction

- This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case pursuant to D.C.
   Code §§ 11-921 and 28-3909.
- This Court has personal jurisdiction over all of the Defendants pursuant to D.C. Code § 13-423(a).

#### The Parties

- 4. Plaintiff, the District, a municipal corporation that is authorized to sue and be sued, is the local government for the territory constituting the seat of the government for the United States of America. The District brings this action, through its Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection, pursuant to the CPPA, which authorizes the Attorney General to bring court actions to enforce the District's consumer protection laws, including the CPPA. See D.C. Official Code § 28-3909.
- 5. Defendant UTS is a Maryland corporation that has been registered to conduct business in the District of Columbia since 2001, at an office located at 1801 Columbia Road, NW, Suite 103, Washington, DC 20009. UTS engages in the business of offering and selling legal services and other services the purpose of which is to assist consumers with immigration and other legal matters.
- 6. Defendant Sanchez is an owner and/or officer of UTS. At all times pertinent hereto, Defendant Sanchez exercised the authority to control, operate, and direct the policies and trade practices of UTS. Defendant Sanchez personally participated in and was responsible for creating and implementing the unlawful policies and trade practices of UTS that are described

herein. Defendant Sanchez knew or should have known of the unlawful trade practices that are described herein and had the power to stop them but, rather than stopping them, took part in them and promoted their continuation.

7. Defendant Sanchez is individually liable for the unlawful practices that he committed and that were committed by, and through, UTS.

#### Factual Background

- 8. The Defendants have engaged in the offer and sale of goods and services to consumers in the District of Columbia for their personal, household or family purposes, by offering and selling legal services and immigration services to District of Columbia consumers.
- 9. The Defendants expressly and implicitly represent to consumers that Defendant Sanchez is a lawyer and that Defendant UTS can provide legal services, and that both can provide consumers assistance on immigration matters. Immigration matters are any legal proceeding, filing, or action that affects the immigration status of a noncitizen and arises under any federal immigration law, presidential order, federal executive agency action, or proclamation by a foreign country.
- 10. The Defendants' advertising and communications represent that they offer legal services. The Defendants list their services as including legal services and have prominent signage in their offices listing themselves as "Abogados," "TPS," and "Permisos de Viaje," which are Spanish words or abbreviations for lawyers or legal services. On their business cards, the Defendants give Defendant Sanchez the title of "Lic.," an abbreviation for the word "licenciado," which also signals in the Spanish language that Defendant Sanchez is a lawyer.
- 11. In order to foster the impression that the Defendants or their employees are authorized to practice law, the Defendants also list themselves as "Notarios" or "Notario

Publico" on their website and in their advertisements. The term "Notario" in many Latin

American countries signifies a person who can practice law. The use of the term "Notario" to
mislead consumers into believing providers of immigration services are attorneys is commonly
referred to as "Notario Fraud."

- 12. The net impression that the Defendants' representations leave consumers with is that the Defendants or their employees are attorneys who are able to assist consumers in obtaining, preparing and filing immigration forms and who could perform other immigration services. In fact, neither the Defendants nor their employees are attorneys licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia. Moreover, the Defendants could not lawfully offer, sell and/or perform the immigration services they offered and sold to consumers.
- unless they are: (a) attorneys licensed in the United States; (b) law students not yet admitted to any bar; (c) reputable individuals (which is defined to be individuals with good moral character who provide immigration services on an individual case basis and without remuneration, have a pre-existing relationship with the person they are representing, and their representation is approved by the official before whom they are appearing); (d) representatives accredited by the Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals; or (e) accredited officials, who are officials, in the United States, of the government to which an alien owes allegiance, if the official appears solely in his official capacity and with the alien's consent. See 8 C.F.R. §292.1.
- 14. Neither the Defendants nor their employees are lawyers, law students not yet admitted to the bar, reputable individuals, accredited representatives, or accredited officials.
- 15. The Defendants improperly collected fees from consumers for the unlawful legal and immigration services they sold to consumers. In addition to paying for services that the

Defendants could not lawfully perform, consumers were further harmed by the Defendants when the Defendants provided consumers incorrect legal advice or failed to adequately perform the offered immigration services.

- 16. Consumers who purchased legal and immigration services from the Defendants suffered damages when they were unable to obtain the immigration or legal status that they sought through the Defendants' assistance, or their efforts to seek immigration or legal status were substantially delayed as a result of the Defendants ineffective assistance.
- 17. The Defendants offered and sold their unlawful legal and immigration services since at least June 8, 2012, a period of at least 943 business days. Each day that the Defendants marketed, offered, and sold their unlawful legal and immigration services they committed an unlawful practice that violated the CPPA.
- 18. The Defendants' representations, both express and implied, that they could provide immigration services or that they were attorneys constitute representations that the Defendants had a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, certification or connection that they did not have.
- 19. The Defendants' representations, both express and implied, concerning their ability to provide legal services and services related to immigration matters were misrepresentations of material fact that had the tendency to mislead consumers.
- 20. The Defendants' failure to inform consumers that they were not authorized to practice law or provide services on immigration matters are material facts, the omission of which tended to mislead consumers.

#### Violations of the Consumer Protection Procedures Act

- 21. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 20 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
- The CPPA is a remedial statute that is to be broadly construed. It establishes an enforceable right to truthful information from merchants about consumer goods and services that are or would be purchased, leased or received in the District of Columbia.
- 23. The legal services and immigration services that the Defendants offered and sold consumers were purchased for personal, household or family purposes and, therefore, were consumer goods and services.
- 24. The Defendants, in the ordinary course of business, offer to sell or supply consumer goods and services and, therefore, are merchants.
- 25. The CPPA prohibits unlawful trade practices in connection with the offer, sale and supplying consumer goods and services.
- 26. The Defendants represent to consumers, expressly and implicitly, that they were lawyers or that they could represent consumers on immigration matters when, in fact, they were not licensed attorneys and were not authorized to represent consumers in immigration matters. The Defendants' misrepresentations are representations that the Defendants had a sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, certification or connection that they did not have and are unlawful practices that violate CPPA, D.C. Code § 28-3904(b).
- 27. The Defendants represent to consumers, expressly and implicitly, that they could lawfully offer, sell and perform legal services and services regarding immigration matters when, in fact, they could not. The Defendants' misrepresentations concern a material fact that had a

tendency to mislead consumers and are unlawful trade practices that violate CPPA, D.C. Code § 28-3904(e).

- 28. The Defendants' failure to disclose to consumers that they were not licensed attorneys and were not authorized to represent consumers in immigration matters are material facts the omission of which tended to mislead consumers and is an unlawful trade practice that violates CPPA, D.C. Code § 28-3904(f).
  - 29. The Defendants committed at least 943 violations of the CPPA.

### Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE, the District of Columbia respectfully requests this Court enter a iudgment in its favor and grant relief against the Defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:

- (a) Permanently enjoin the Defendants, pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(a), from violating the CPPA;
- (b) Disgorge restitution pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(a) for amounts collected from District of Columbia consumers in violation of the CPPA;
- (c) Award damages to consumers harmed by the Defendants' unlawful practices pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(a);
- (d) Order the payment of statutory civil penalties in the amount of \$1,000 per violation, pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(b), for the Defendants' violations of the CPPA;
- (e) Award the District the costs of this action and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to D.C. Code § 28-3909(b); and
- (f) Grant such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

### Jury Demand

The District of Columbia demands a trial by jury by the maximum number of jurors permitted by law.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 24, 2016

KARL A. RACINE

Attorney General for the District of Columbia

PHILIP ZIPERMAN'

Director

JIMMY R. ROCK [493521]

Deputy Director

RICHARD V. RODRIGUEZ [1014925]

Assistant Attorney General

(202)-727-6337

Richard.Rodriguez@dc.gov

Office of Consumer Protection Office of the Attorney General 441 Fourth Street, N.W., Suite 600 South Washington, D.C. 20001

<sup>\*</sup> Practicing in the District of Columbia pursuant to Ct. App. R. 49(c)

#### Superior Court of the District of Columbia CIVIL DIVISION

500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000 Washington, D.C. 20001 Telephone: (202) 879-1133

District of Columbia

441 4th Street, NW, Suite 600S

Plaintiff

Washington, DC 20001

Case Number 2016 CA 002205 B

Unlimited Technologies and Solutions Corporation D/B/A UTS

1801 Columbia Road, NW, Suite 103

Defendant

Washington, D.C. 20009

SUMMONS

To the above named Defendant:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve an Answer to the attached Complaint, either personally or through an attorney, within twenty (20) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you are being sued as an officer or agency of the United States Government or the District of Columbia Government, you have sixty (60) days after service of this summons to serve your Answer. A copy of the Answer must be mailed to the attorney for the party plaintiff who is suing you. The attorney's name and address appear below. If plaintiff has no attorney, a copy of the Answer must be mailed to the plaintiff at the address stated on this Summons.

You are also required to file the original Answer with the Court in Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays or between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Saturdays. You may file the original Answer with the Court either before you serve a copy of the Answer on the plaintiff or within five (5) days after you have served the plaintiff. If you fail to file an Answer, judgment by default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Richard V. Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney General	Cleri	k of the Court	
Name of Plaintiff's Attorney	.8.	STUDIOR COL	
Office of the Attorney General for DC	Ву	JANES GOOD	
Address 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 600 South		Deputy Olerk	
Washington, DC. 20001		03/24/2016	
(202).727-6337	Date	03/24/2010	
Telephone			
如需翻译, 潜打电话 (202) 879-4828 Veuillez appeler au (202) 879	-4828 pour une traduction	Để có một bài dịch, hãy gọi (202) 879-4	1828

IMPORTANT: IF YOU FAIL TO FILE AN ANSWER WITHIN THE TIME STATED ABOVE, OR IF, AFTER YOU ANSWER, YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT ANY TIME THE COURT NOTIFIES YOU TO DO SO, A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY DAMAGES OR OTHER RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT. IF THIS OCCURS, YOUR WAGES MAY BE ATTACHED OR WITHHELD OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR REAL ESTATE YOU OWN MAY BE TAKEN AND SOLD TO PAY THE JUDGMENT. IF YOU INTEND TO OPPOSE THIS ACTION, DO NOT FAIL TO ANSWER WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME.

If you wish to talk to a lawyer and feel that you cannot afford to pay a fee to a lawyer, promptly contact one of the offices of the Legal Aid Society (202-628-1161) or the Neighborhood Legal Services (202-279-5100) for help or come to Suite 5000 at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., for more information concerning places where you may ask for such help.

> See reverse side for Spanish translation Vea al dorso la traducción al español





#### TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DEL DISTRITO DE COLUMBIA DIVISIÓN CIVIL

500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000 Washington, D.C. 20001 Teléfono: (202) 879-1133

District of Columbia			
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 600S	Demandante		
Washington, DC 20001		Número de Caso:	
Unlimited Technologies and Solutions Corpe	marian IVIIIA II		
1801 Columbia Road, NW, Suite 103	Demandado	f 72	
Washington, D.C. 20009	CITATORIO		
Al susodicho Demandado:			
persona o por medio de un abogado, en el plazo citatorio, excluyendo el día mismo de la entrega o agente del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de la sesenta (60) días contados después que usted hay enviarle por correo una copia de su Contestació abogado aparecen al final de este documento. Si o copia de la Contestación por correo a la dirección	del citatorio. Si u Norteamérica o de ya recibido este con al abogado de el demandado no to que aparece en es	sted està siendo demanda el Gobierno del Distrito itatorio, para entregar su la parte demandante. E iene abogado, tiene que e te Citatorio.	do en calidad de oficial o de Columbia, tiene usted Contestación. Tiene que Il nombre y dirección del nviarle al demandante una
A usted también se le require presentar l' Indiana Avenue, N.W., entre las 8:30 a.m. y 5:00 los sábados. Usted puede presentar la Contesta demandante una copia de la Contestación o en el p usted incumple con presentar una Contestación, efectivo el desagravio que se busca en la demanda	p.m., de lunes a vi ación original am plazo de cinco (5) podría dictarse u	ernes o entre las 9:00 a.n te el Juez ya sea antes días de haberle hecho la n fallo en rebeldía contr	n y las 12:00 del mediodía que Usted le entregue al entrega al demandante. Si ra usted para que se haga
Richard V. Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney Gene	ral	SECRETARIO DEL TRI	IBUNAL
Nombre del abogado del Demandante			
Office of the Attorney General for Do	C Port	Subsec	
Dirección 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 600 South		Subsec	cretario
Washington, DC, 20001			
(202) 727-6337	Fecha		
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IMPORTANTE: SI USTED INCUMPLE CON PRESENTAR UNA CONTESTACIÓN EN EL PLAZO ANTES MENCIONADO, O, SI LUEGO DE CONTESTAR, USTED NO COMPARECE CUANDO LE AVISE EL JUZGADO, PODRÍA DICTARSE UN FALLO EN REBELDÍA CONTRA USTED PARA QUE SE LE COBRE LOS DAÑOS Y PERJUICIOS U OTRO DESAGRAVIO QUE SE BUSQUE EN LA DEMANDA. SI ESTO OCURRE, PODRÍAN RETENERLE SUS INGRESOS, O PODRÍAN TOMAR SUS BIENES PERSONALES O RAÍCES Y VENDERLOS PARA PAGAR EL FALLO. SI USTED PRETENDE OPONERSE A ESTA ACCIÓN, NO DEJE DE CONTESTAR LA DEMANDA DENTRO DEL PLAZO EXIGIDO.

Si desea converser con un abogado y le parece que no puede afrontar el costo de uno, llame pronto a una de nuestras oficinas del Legal Aid Society (202-628-1161) o el Neighborhood Legal Services (202-279-5100) para pedir ayuda o venga a la Oficina 5000 del 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., para informarse de otros lugares donde puede pedir ayuda al respecto.

> Vea al dorso el original en inglés See reverse side for English original



# Superior Court of the District of Columbia CIVIL DIVISION

500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000 Washington, D.C. 20001 Telephone: (202) 879-1133

Case Number 2016 CA 002205 B

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 600S	Plaintiff
Washington, DC 20001 vs.	
MARDOQUEO M. SANCHEZ	
1522 Crest Road	Defendant
Silver Spring, MD 20902	ረግዎቸው ጽጭ ለሃታኒች ነሪን

To the above named Defendant:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve an Answer to the attached Complaint, either personally or through an attorney, within twenty (20) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you are being sued as an officer or agency of the United States Government or the District of Columbia Government, you have sixty (60) days after service of this summons to serve your Answer. A copy of the Answer must be mailed to the attorney for the party plaintiff who is suing you. The attorney's name and address appear below. If plaintiff has no attorney, a copy of the Answer must be mailed to the plaintiff at the address stated on this Summons.

SUMMONS

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Richard V. Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney General	Clerk	of the Court
Name of Plaintiff's Attorney		
Office of the Attorney General for DC	Ву	JAN Kirly
Address 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 600 South		Deputy Check
Washington, DC. 2000T		03/24/2016
(202) 727-6337	Date	03/24/2010
Telephone		
如需翻译,请打电话 (202) 879-4828 Veuillez appeler au (202) 879	-4828 pour une traduction	Để có một bài dịch, hãy gọi (202) 879-4628
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#### TRIBUNAL SUPERIOR DEL DISTRITO DE COLUMBIA DIVISIÓN CIVIL

500 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 5000 Washington, D.C. 20001 Teléfono: (202) 879-1133

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA			
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 600S	Demandante		
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Richard V. Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney Gene Nombre del abogado del Demandante		ECRETARIO DEL TRIBI	NAL:
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# Superior Court of the District of Columbia

### CIVIL DIVISION- CIVIL ACTIONS BRANCH

INFORMATION SHEET

District of Columbia	Case Number: 201	6 CA 002205 B	
vs	Date: March 24, 2016		
Inlimited Technologies and Solutions Corporation, et al.			
Name: <i>(Please Print)</i> Richard V. Rodriguez, Assistant Attorney General		ionship to Lawsuit	
Firm Name: Office of the Attorney General for the District of Colu	1	<ul><li>X Attorney for Plaintiff</li><li>☐ Self (Pro Se)</li></ul>	
Telephone No.:         Six digit Unified Bar No.           202-727-6337         1014925		Other:	
TYPE OF CASE: Non-Jury 6 Personand: \$Restitution and civil penalties	on Jury	12 Person Jury unctive relief	
PENDING CASE(S) RELATED TO THE ACTION B Case No.: Judge:		alendar#:	
Case No.: Judge:		Calendar#:	
NATURE OF SUIT: (Check One Box Only)			
A. CONTRACTS COLI	ECTION CASES		
□ 01 Breach of Contract □ 14 Under \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent □ 16 Under \$25,000 Consent Denied □ 02 Breach of Warranty □ 17 OVER \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent □ 18 OVER \$25,000 Consent Denied □ 06 Negotiable Instrument □ 27 Insurance/Subrogation □ 26 Insurance/Subrogation □ 07 Personal Property □ Over \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent □ Over \$25,000 Consent Denied □ 13 Employment Discrimination □ 07 Insurance/Subrogation □ 34 Insurance/Subrogation □ 15 Special Education Fees □ Under \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent □ Under \$25,000 Consent Denied □ 28 Motion to Confirm Arbitration Award (Collection Cases Only)			
B. PROPERTY TORTS	3		
Ol Automobile		1 05 Trespass	
C. PERSONAL TORTS			
☐ 01 Abuse of Process ☐ 10 Invasion of ☐ 02 Alienation of Affection ☐ 11 Libel and SI ☐ 03 Assault and Battery ☐ 12 Malicious It ☐ 04 Automobile- Personal Injury ☐ 13 Malicious P ☐ 14 Malpractice ☐ 15 Malpractice ☐ 06 False Accusation ☐ 15 Malpractice Med ☐ 16 Negligence-☐ 08 Fraud ☐ Not Malpractice ☐ Not Malpractice ☐ 15 Malpractice ☐ 16 Negligence-☐ 17 Malpractice ☐ 18 Not Malpractice ☐ 18 Not Malpractice ☐ 19 Not Malpract	ander terforence rosecution Legal ical (Including Wrongful Death) (Not Automobile, tice)	17 Personal Injury- (Not Automobile, Not Malpractice) 18 Wrongful Death (Not Malpractice) 19 Wrongful Eviction 20 Friendly Suit 21 Asbestos 22 Toxic/Mass Torts 23 Tobacco 24 Lead Paint	

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# Information Sheet, Continued

C. OTHERS  O1 Accounting O2 Att. Before Judgment O5 Ejectment O9 Special Writ/Warrants (DC Code § 11-941) I10 Traffic Adjudication I11 Writ of Replevin I2 Enforce Mechanics Lien I6 Declaratory Judgment	☐ 17 Merit Personnel Act (OEA) (D.C. Code Title 1, Chapter 6) ☐ 18 Product Liability ☐ 24 Application to Confirm, Modify, Vacate Arbitration Award (DC Cod.) ☐ 29 Merit Personnel Act (OHR) ☐ 31 Housing Code Regulations ☐ 32 Qui Tam ☐ 33 Whistleblower		
II.    03 Change of Name   06 Foreign Judgment/Domestic   08 Foreign Judgment/Internation   13 Correction of Birth Certificat   14 Correction of Marriage   Certificate   26 Petition for Civil Asset Forfi   27 Petition for Civil Asset Forfi   28 Petition for Civil Asset Forfi	e 2-1802.03 (h) or 32-151 9 (a)]  20 Master Meter (D.C. Code § 42-3301, et seq.) siture (Vehiole)	21 Petition for Subpoena [Rule 28-I (b)] 22 Release Mechanics Lien 23 Rule 27(a)(1) (Perpetuate Testimony) 24 Petition for Structured Settlement 25 Petition for Liquidation	
D. REAL PROPERTY    09 Real Property-Real Estate   08 Quiet Title   12 Specific Performance   25 Liens: Tax / Water Consent Granted   04 Condemnition (Eminent Domsin)   30 Liens: Tax / Water Consent Denied   10 Mortgage Poreclosure/Judicial Sale   31 Tax Lien Bid Off Certificate Consent Granted   11 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (RP)			
Jaka A.		March 24, 2016	
Attorney's Signate	ire	Date	



### SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIVIL DIVISION

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Vs. C.A. No. 2016 CA 002205 B

UNLIMITED TECHNOLOGIES AND SOLUTIONS CORPORATION et al

### INITIAL ORDER AND ADDENDUM

Pursuant to D.C. Code § 11-906 and District of Columbia Superior Court Rule of Civil Procedure ("SCR Civ") 40-I, it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

- (1) Effective this date, this case has assigned to the individual calendar designated below. All future filings in this case shall bear the calendar number and the judge's name beneath the case number in the caption. On filing any motion or paper related thereto, one copy (for the judge) must be delivered to the Clerk along with the original.
- (2) Within 60 days of the filing of the complaint, plaintiff must file proof of serving on each defendant: copies of the Summons, the Complaint, and this Initial Order. As to any defendant for whom such proof of service has not been filed, the Complaint will be dismissed without prejudice for want of prosecution unless the time for serving the defendant has been extended as provided in SCR Civ 4(m).
- (3) Within 20 days of service as described above, except as otherwise noted in SCR Civ 12, each defendant must respond to the Complaint by filing an Answer or other responsive pleading. As to the defendant who has failed to respond, a default and judgment will be entered unless the time to respond has been extended as provided in SCR Civ 55(a).
- (4) At the time and place noted below, all counsel and unrepresented parties shall appear before the assigned judge at an Initial Scheduling and Settlement Conference to discuss the possibilities of settlement and to establish a schedule for the completion of all proceedings, including, normally, either mediation, case evaluation, or arbitration. Counsel shall discuss with their clients **prior** to the conference whether the clients are agreeable to binding or non-binding arbitration. **This order is the only notice that parties and counsel will receive concerning this Conference.**
- (5) Upon advice that the date noted below is inconvenient for any party or counsel, the Quality Review Branch (202) 879-1750 may continue the Conference <u>once</u>, with the consent of all parties, to either of the two succeeding Fridays. Request must be made not less than six business days before the scheduling conference date. No other continuance of the conference will be granted except upon motion for good cause shown.
- (6) Parties are responsible for obtaining and complying with all requirements of the General Order for Civil cases, each Judge's Supplement to the General Order and the General Mediation Order. Copies of these orders are available in the Courtroom and on the Court's website <a href="http://www.dccourts.gov/">http://www.dccourts.gov/</a>.

Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield

Case Assigned to: Judge JEANETTE J CLARK

Date: March 24, 2016

Initial Conference: 9:30 am, Friday, June 24, 2016

Location: Courtroom 221

500 Indiana Avenue N.W.

# ADDENDUM TO INITIAL ORDER AFFECTING ALL MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CASES

In accordance with the Medical Malpractice Proceedings Act of 2006, D.C. Code § 16-2801, et seq. (2007 Winter Supp.), "[a]fter an action is filed in the court against a healthcare provider alleging medical malpractice, the court shall require the parties to enter into mediation, without discovery or, if all parties agree[,] with only limited discovery that will not interfere with the completion of mediation within 30 days of the Initial Scheduling and Settlement Conference ("ISSC"), prior to any further litigation in an effort to reach a settlement agreement. The early mediation schedule shall be included in the Scheduling Order following the ISSC. Unless all parties agree, the stay of discovery shall not be more than 30 days after the ISSC." D.C. Code § 16-2821.

To ensure compliance with this legislation, on or before the date of the ISSC, the Court will notify all attorneys and *pro se* parties of the date and time of the early mediation session and the name of the assigned mediator. Information about the early mediation date also is available over the internet at https://www:dccourts.gov/pa/. To facilitate this process, all counsel and *pro se* parties in every medical malpractice case are required to confer, jointly complete and sign an EARLY MEDIATION FORM, which must be filed no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the ISSC. Two separate Early Mediation Forms are available. Both forms may be obtained at www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation. One form is to be used for early mediation with a mediator from the multi-door medical malpractice mediator roster; the second form is to be used for early mediation with a private mediator. Both forms also are available in the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Office, Suite 2900, 410 E Street, N.W. Plaintiff's counsel is responsible for eFiling the form and is required to e-mail a courtesy copy to earlymedmal@dcsc.gov. *Pro se* Plaintiff's who elect not to eFile may file by hand in the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Office.

A roster of medical malpractice mediators available through the Court's Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division, with biographical information about each mediator, can be found at www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation/mediatorprofiles. All individuals on the roster are judges or lawyers with at least 10 years of significant experience in medical malpractice litigation. D.C. Code § 16-2823(a). If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, the Court will appoint one. D.C. Code § 16-2823(b).

The following persons are required by statute to attend personally the Early Mediation Conference: (1) all parties; (2) for parties that are not individuals, a representative with settlement authority; (3) in cases involving an insurance company, a representative of the company with settlement authority; and (4) attorneys representing each party with primary responsibility for the case. D.C. Code § 16-2824.

No later than ten (10) days after the early mediation session has terminated, Plaintiff must eFile with the Court a report prepared by the mediator, including a private mediator, regarding: (1) attendance; (2) whether a settlement was reached; or, (3) if a settlement was not reached, any agreements to narrow the scope of the dispute, limit discovery, facilitate future settlement, hold another mediation session, or otherwise reduce the cost and time of trial preparation. D.C. Code § 16-2826. Any Plaintiff who is *pro se* may elect to file the report by hand with the Civil Clerk's Office. The forms to be used for early mediation reports are available at www.dccourts.gov/medmalmediation.

Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield